DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Agriculture not only gives riches to a nation, but the only riches she can call her own.—JOHNSON.

VOL. II. SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1850. NO. 18.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

HARVESTING CORN.

A GREAT deal is said about the different modes of harvesting corn. The old method is to cut the stalks, when the corn is nearly ripe, in order to let in the sun to ripen the corn. Some modern farmers have improved upon this method, as many believe, by cutting the plants up at the ground when the grain is nearly ripe, and putting it into stooks; and when it is well dried, the whole is carried into the barn and husked.

We are in favor of the latter mode, and the following are a few of the reasons for our preference. In the first place, we would premise that the whole plant, the top as well as root, is necessary to the perfection of the grain, and when the corn is so ripe that the plant may be mutilated so far as to cut off the top without injury, the root may be cut off without injury.

We will now show the advantages of the new mode. By cutting up at the ground, or cutting off the root, there is far less labor than in cutting the stalks. One blow of the knife will cut up a hill, but in cutting stalks there must be as many operations to a hill as it contains stalks. Pieces of corn, of about fifty bushels to the acre, and thickly planted, so that there were five or six thousand hills to the acre, have been cut up at the ground at fifty cents per acre, or by a half day's labor. This would require diligent labor, we acknowledge. About the same labor is required to tie up, carry together, and stook. Now, we would ask, who can in one day, with moderate labor, cut, bind up, and stook the top stalks on an acre, and in due time gather the corn, and cut up the but stalks, and forward the harvesting so that the whole can be gathered in as quickly as the corn can be hauled in when all is cut up together? We claim a great advantage for the modern mode in point of economy in labor. There is no loss of grain by cutting up at the ground, and there is a great saving in the but stalks, which become much injured by storms, sun, and wind, and other wear and tear.

Besides the usual advantages of cutting up corn, there is a great advantage in this mode of harvesting, in saving it from frost, when it ripens late. Corn that is only full in the milk, may be cut up when a frost seems to be at hand, and it will make good, sweet bread, though rather light; while, if struck with frost at so early a stage, it is not fit for man or beast. It is not worth harvesting, for even the pigs will refuse it.

If corn be cut up on the eve of a frost, it will not be injured while lying in heaps on the ground. We have saved corn from a frost by cutting it up by moonlight, when the state of the weather indicated a hard frost.

We now give the mode of securing corn, as practised by Mr. W. Salisbury, of Medfield, and trust that it will be useful to many of our readers. He cuts his corn when the grain is glazed. Provide a good firm stake, and bore two holes at a suitable height, as you can judge from experience. These holes should cross each other, and one should be just above the other. Into these holes put small iron rods; wooden rods will answer by having them larger. The rods will form a cross, thus, +.

Stick down this stake, then take the corn, about twenty-five hills, without binding into bundles, and place it equally around the stake, between the arms or rods extending from it. Equally balanced and properly adjusted, it will stand. Remove the stake, and hug close around the stook, to press the whole gently together; bend over the tops and tie them down, and it is done.

One stake will answer for the whole piece. There will be no bundles mouldering under the bands, but the whole will be exposed to the air, and become well cured. These stooks will generally stand the wind and the storms; if well done it seldom falls. The fodder will be fine, and the grain excellent.

Some object to cutting up stout corn; but Mr. S. remarks that he secured a piece in this way last September, that produced, on a little less than an acre and a half, one hundred and ninety-two baskets of ears, which would make half a bushel or more to each basket. He hauls in his corn loose, laying the stooks all together into the cart, and sets it up loose in the barn, and finds it more convenient to husk than buts.

Mr. S. saves his fodder by cutting up the stalks,

and putting it in layers with cut straw, and adds a little salt. He says that it costs less to cut and stook the whole, than to do the same to the top stalks. From his piece of less than an acre and a half, and a suitable proportion of straw, the proportion of which we did not think to get, he filled a bay of twenty by ten feet, twelve feet high, which kept three cows from October to the 23d of March, in good condition, with only the addition of a very little meadow hay.

MILKING MACHINES. — Gutta percha patent milking machines are in use on Long Island, and it is said that they work well. The simple instrument is easily applied to the teat of the cow, without injury to the animal, and the milk flows in a regular stream until the fountain is exhausted.

CATTLE SHOWS AND EXHIBITIONS.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society, at their hall, Sept. 17, 18, and 19.

Massachusetts Charitable Mechanical Association, at Quincy Hall, Boston, commencing Sept. 11.

New York State Agricultural Society, at Albany, Sept. 4, 5, and 6.

American Pomological Congress, at Cincinnati. The meeting of this association is adjourned to Oct. 2, 3, and 4.

Ohio State Society, at Cincinnati, Oct. 2, 3, and 4.

Rhode Island State Society, at Providence, Sept. 18, 19, and 20.

New Haven, Ct., Agricultural and Horticultural Society, at New Haven, Sept. 24, 25, and 26.

New Hampshire State Society, at Concord, Oct. 2 and 3.

Maryland State Society, at Baltimore, Oct. 23, 24, and 25.

Michigan, at Ann Arbor, Sept. 25, 26, and 27.

Upper Canada, at Niagara, Sept. 18, 19, and 20.

American Institute, at Castle Garden, New York City, commencing Oct. 1.

Middlesex, at Concord, Sept. 18.

Franklin, Sept. 25. Address by Hon. J. T. Buckingham.

Essex, at Salem, Sept. 28.

Bristol, at Taunton, Oct. 10.

Hampden, at Springfield, Oct. 2, 3, and 4.

Addison, Vt., at Vergennes, Sept. 25.

Windsor, Vt., at Woodstock, Sept. 18 and 19.

Windham, Vt., at Fayetteville, Oct. 3 and 4.

Hillsborough, N. H., at Milford, Oct. 16.

Cheshire, N. H., at Keene, Sept. 19.

North Kennebec, Me., at Waterville, Oct. 1 and 2.

Aroostook, Me., at Houlton, Oct. 2 and 3.

PRUNING.

August and September are favorable times for pruning, particularly where large limbs are cut off; for if the wounds made by cutting large limbs or branches do not heal over soon, the parts become seasoned, and remain sound a long time. But if large branches are cut off in spring, the wounded part becomes black, from the fulness of sap in the wood, and it soon decays, seriously affecting the health and life of the tree.

THE PLEASURES OF A COUNTRY LIFE.

Living, as we do, in a warm, densely-built city, where the air is sultry and oppressive, the occasional glimpse we may, in our walks or rides, catch of the green fields, the grassy meadows, and rural scenery in general, cannot convey an adequate idea of the pleasures of country life. We may experience much happiness in gazing on the beauties of Nature, and we may take pains, as far as possible, to profit by the lessons gathered from her open pages; but, even yet, we have not arrived at the true source whence springs the even life, the tranquil happiness, and the undisturbed pleasure of those who are born and nursed in Nature's lap, who grow up by her side, and who, at the close of a long life, free from care and sorrow, are buried in the village graveyard. There is no class of men who can look with as much substantial pleasure on their work, as farmers. They know they are working for the good and benefit of their fellow-men; they feel the crop which they are reaping will be disseminated through the land, and bring comfort wherever it goes, and that their harvest is watched for eagerly over the whole world; more than this, they love their way of life, they love to see the fields dressed in their robes of green, the golden tufted crops nodding in the summer air, while the ear delights in the merry carol of the bird as he sits on the limb of some majestic tree. Yet, not only the summer has charms for them, but they derive pleasure from blushing spring, from sober autumn, and from hoary winter; every season in its turn has charms for the farmer; he knows that an all-wise Providence created them, that His purpose was good and kind, desiring the comfort and happiness of the tiller of the soil. He feels this, and is happy. He is the man who knows to its full extent the pure happiness of country life. It may have its occasional crosses, crops may fail, harvest may not turn out right; yet, on the whole, the son of Nature alone can feel the real pleasures of a country life. — *N. A. Farmer.*

KENNEBEC GRAIN.

We called at the farm of Mr. Jabez Churchill, of Augusta, the other day, and found him busily engaged in harvesting fourteen and one half acres of winter rye, and three and one-half acres of winter wheat; and better grain, or a more bountiful yield, is not often obtained, even in the best grain-growing districts of the west. The unfavorable weather of week before last turned the straw a little, but the grain itself is not injured.

Mr. Churchill has three varieties of winter wheat, all of which stood the winter well, and have produced grain of an excellent quality. The varieties are the Blue-stem Kloss, or Banner wheat; the Poland wheat, introduced by J. D. Lang, Esq., and cultivated by Moses Taber; and a variety of Genesee wheat, which was procured of Mr. Whittier, of Hallowell, who selected it for the purpose of grinding. Not more than half of the latter vegetated, from some cause or other; but what did grow spread well, and will probably yield a fair crop. These are all good varieties, and may be well adapted for general cultivation in this state; but Mr. Churchill, from what he has seen of them, thinks most favorably of the Blue-stem Kloss, or Banner wheat. — *Maine Farmer.*

CHURN THERMOMETER—BUTTER MOULD.

The smaller cut represents a neat and cheap thermometer, made expressly for dairy purposes. The body is of wood, which makes it firm and durable. On the lower part is a brass guard protecting the bulb of the thermometer, which turns on a rivet, and may be turned up when used, so that it will be necessary to immerse only the bulb in the cream or milk. A mark is made at which the mercury indicates that the temperature of the cream is at sixty-two degrees, the proper point for churning; and if it varies from this mark, the temperature may be readily changed by adding hot or cold water.

This implement is very important to the *dairyist*, as the exact temperature is obtained, instead of guessing at it, as is the case where one depends on judgment. No person who makes butter should be without a thermometer; and every one can afford it, even if he keeps but one cow, for this article, so well adapted to the purpose, costs only twenty-five cents.

The larger cut represents a butter mould, with stamps placed in the bottom, of various patterns. This mould is six square, a convenient form for packing, so as to leave no interstices between the lumps. The same form is used by bees in forming their cells, for which they have been complimented as perfect mathematicians. The mould holds just one pound of butter, so that this plastic production, with this simple and cheap apparatus, costing only one dollar, may be quickly put up in pound lumps, without the trouble of weighing, having the most convenient form for packing, as well as the best shape for use; and, at the same time, it may be stamped with any of the various designs, on the stamps, that the operator may choose.

We would commend these dairy improvements to those who have them not, as affording peculiar advantages, and at prices so low as to be within the range of the most rigid economy.

THE UTILITY OF THE MOLE.

"Some ten years since," says Mr. G. Wilkins, "when I came to my living, and commenced cultivating the little land I hold, it was, I may say, full of wire-worms. Nothing could have been worse, for my crops were in some places ruined by them entirely. What, then, did I do? I adopted a plan which I saw recommended and published in periodicals many years since, namely, encouraging moles and partridges on my lands. Instead of permitting a mole to be caught, I bought all I could, and turned them down alive; and soon my fields, one after another, were full of mole-hills, to the amusement of all my neighbors, who at first set me down as a lunatic; but now, several adopt my plan, and are strenuous advocates of it. My fields became exactly like a honey-comb, and this continued even among my standing and growing and ripening crops; not a mole was molested, but I still bought more. This summer I had fourteen bought, which I turned down, but they were not wanted; I have nothing for them to eat; all that moles live upon is destroyed, and so, poor things, they must starve, or emigrate to some distant land, and thus get bowstringed by savage men whom they aim to serve. Adopt my plan, and it will be sure to answer. If you have a nest of partridges, also encourage them; all the summer they live upon insects, wire-worms, &c.; and consider how many millions a covey will destroy in a single summer! Again, always remember that moles feed upon insects, and of which the wire-worm is the chief; if you doubt this, open a mole and peep into his stomach. Again, do not fear that moles injure your crops, either in a field or in a garden; it is a low and vulgar error to suppose that they root up young corn; they never go any where till the wire-worms have first destroyed the plants, and then, innocent things, they are punished for others' faults. If you do not like to see their hills, knock them about with a hoe, as I did; it is a healthy amusement, and they will do your lands good. Do not despise any plan because the farmers will not adopt it in your neighborhood; farmers will adopt nothing till driven to it, and nothing that is new and good."

A thing of beauty is a joy forever.

For the New England Farmer.

PEACH-LEAF CURL.

Mr. Editor: On the 29th of May last, I made an excursion from this place to Marshfield; the morning was rainy, but the day was a favorable one for travelling. On my way I was exhilarated by the splendid exhibition of Nature in her efforts at ornamenting the fruit-trees with an uncommon mantle of blossoms. I should think at Marshfield they were three or more days in advance of the fruit-trees in Wilmington. The 30th and 61st days of May, and the 1st day of June, were very cold, uncomfortable days for the season; the winds from the north-east, driving the clouds from the ocean, with the chilly air charged with mist from the icebergs drifting from northern climes, made an overcoat a necessary appendage to add to one's comfort. On the 1st day of June, some of the fruit-growers at Marshfield saw indications of blight commencing upon their peach-blossoms, which boded unfavorable omens to a coming crop. On my return home, I found our own peach-trees had been very roughly handled by the wind.

After the abatement of the storm, and the weather became mild, the young peaches began to show themselves, and the curl of the peach leaf commenced, and progressed rapidly until nearly every one existing upon the trees during the storm was completely crimpled. We examined the curled leaves, and could discern no indication of animal life in any form upon them, nor have we up to the present time. The leaves upon the peach-trees previous to the May storm have been gradually dropping from the trees to this time, and are nearly all fallen off; and those now upon the trees are mainly from new shoots, and appear green and healthy. There may be different causes for the curl in the peach-leaf, but I feel confident that the cold northerly and easterly winds in the month of May produced the blight on the leaf, followed by the curl. The violent and long-continued cold winds caused stagnation in the minute sap-vessels of the leaves, which produced premature decay and falling off, as in autumn.

The bodies and leaves of trees have their sap-vessels for the same purpose that animals have their blood-vessels; whatever takes place to the injury of either, in such manner as to destroy the circulation, will produce disease or mortification of the affected part, as well in trees as in animals.

As there has been considerable discussion upon the peach-leaf curl by writers on the subject of fruit-trees, I thought it possible that some light might be shed by the above remarks, which were carefully made from observation. With much respect,

SILAS BROWN.

Wilmington, *Aug.* 1, 1850.

Remarks. — The views of Dr. Brown are the same as our own, in regard to the blast on the peach-leaf. It came too suddenly and extensively to be the work of insects, and at a season that is unfavorable to their propagation and operations. It could not be caused by the effects of the winter on the trees, for the winter was favorable, and we had young seedlings seriously affected in the leaves, while every part of the tree, both root and branch, was perfectly sound. — Ed.

Emulation looks out for merits, that she may exalt herself by a victory; Envy spies out blemishes, that she may lower another by defeat.

For the New England Farmer.

FARMERS' DAUGHTERS.

Mr. Cole: Important as it is that farmers' daughters should be trained to fill the places of their mothers, it is almost wholly neglected. Since it has become *fashionable* for young ladies to be sent to boarding-schools as soon as they are of a suitable age, but very little is done in the way of training them for the more important stations in domestic life. What a sad neglect! Do farmers' wives ever think of this? Have they never considered that their places are to be filled by others, when themselves are worn out with the unceasing toils of the varied labors of the kitchen? Farmers' daughters can be as easily trained to make profitable wives for farmers now-a-days as they could fifty years ago. Our grandmothers and great-grandmothers saw matters in their true light. They did not send their daughters to fashionable boarding-schools to learn to make butter and cheese, &c., &c. Instead of this, they took them under their own charge; and well did they perform their tasks. They were sure to give them instructions in each and every department of household affairs, — thus fitting them for stations they would soon be called to fill; and while they did this, their education in other respects was not neglected. That there should be boarding-schools for young misses is very essential, but that every farmer's daughter should be sent to such schools, to the exclusion of every thing appertaining to the duties of a wife and mother, is quite a different matter. So long as the great and important business of agriculture is carried on, (and that will be as long as the world shall stand,) so long will there be need of agricultural women, — women who have been brought up and trained on the farm, and received a proper education as connected with the farm-house. We see no healthier women in our country than those brought up on the farm. This is evident from the fact that they have more exercise in the open air — one very necessary feature as regards the health of individuals. Mark the contrast between the boarding-school miss and the country farmer's daughter. One has bright eyes and rosy cheeks; the other, dull, sunken eyes and pallid cheeks.

O, give me back the good old days of our grandmothers — days when girls were willing to wear homespun frocks, and enjoy exercise in the morning air. Were things managed as they were in those days, how few would go down to premature graves victims of consumption! It is true that there have been great changes, great and important changes in the different modes of agriculture; but in regard to the training of farmers' daughters, the change has been indeed a sad one.

A. TODD.

Smithfield, R. I.

For the New England Farmer.

REMARKS ON, AND CULTURE OF THE GENUS TAMARINDUS.

Mr. Editor: This genus contains two species, one from the East, and the other from the West Indies; which have both been long held in high estimation by many people, on account of the acid, yet sweetish taste of the fruit, which, after some preparatory processes, is rendered agreeable to the palate, and of much service in medicine.

Tamarindus indica, or East Indian tamarind, is a tree of great magnitude when full grown, often exceeding fifty feet in height, with corresponding branches. The season of its flowering is generally

about June or July, in which state it presents rather an interesting appearance; the calyx being of a straw color, the petals of a clear yellow, beautifully striped with red, the filament purple, and the anthers brown. The timber of the tamarind-tree is heavy, firm, and hard; sawn into boards, it is converted into many useful purposes in building. The pulp contained in the pods is used both in food and medicine. The tamarinds which are brought from the East Indies are darker, and dried, but contain more pulp; being preserved without sugar, they are fitter to be put into medicines than those from the West Indies, which are much redder, but, being preserved with sugar, are more pleasant to the palate.

The use of tamarinds was first learned from the Arabians. They contain a larger proportion of acid with the saccharine matter than is usually found in acid fruit. The epicarp of the pod is thin, and the acid pulp for which they are esteemed is the sarcocarp. Tamarinds are preserved in two ways; commonly by throwing hot water from the boilers on the ripe pulp; but a better method is to put alternate layers of tamarinds and powdered sugar in a stone jar. By this means the tamarinds preserve their color, and taste more agreeably. Preserved tamarinds should be fresh and juicy, and should have an agreeable acid taste; they should not have a musty smell; the seeds should not be soft and swollen, and the blade of a knife should not get a coating of copper by being immersed among them. Tamarinds contain sugar, mucilage, citric acid, supertartrate of potass, tartaric acid, and malic acid. In medicine, the pulp of tamarinds taken in the quantity of from two to three drachms to an ounce, or a little more, prove gently laxative and purgative, and at the same time, by its acidity, quenches thirst, and allays immoderate heat.

T. occidentalis, or West India, is a tree of much magnitude and beauty, attaining, in a full-grown specimen, the height of from thirty to forty feet, with branches in proportion. Its blossoms, which are produced in February, so much resemble the *T. indica*, that it will be unnecessary to mention them here. The difference in the two species is in the pods; in the West India species they are shorter and redder than those of the East Indies. They are propagated with great facility by cuttings, but better plants may be obtained from seeds.

BERNARD REYNOSO.

For the New England Farmer.

CURL IN THE POTATO.

Mr. Editor: The new potato disease, of which your correspondent speaks, has affected some varieties of the potato in this vicinity, much longer than the potato rot. I do not now recollect when it first made its appearance, but I think it was about fifteen years since, that we procured a few potatoes of a neighbor, which he called table potatoes, and which were of excellent quality, and, when we first obtained them, tolerably productive; but after planting them a year or two, a part of them gave a stinted growth of stalks, and a small yield of small potatoes, and the number of curled hills gradually increased, until we threw the variety aside as worthless.

Since that time we have had no curly potatoes until we commenced planting the Carter variety, which, with us, is more liable to curl than the Peach Blow. But these are not the only varieties which are affected in this manner. I have seen it to some extent in the Early Blue, the Long Red, and several other varieties.

The disease, I think, is caused in part by the nature of the soil, and is partly peculiar to particular varieties. My reasons for attributing a part to the soil are, that in the south and west parts of this town, where the soil is of a dark color, resembling muck, and rather moist, the curl has not been seen; and potatoes raised on such land will remain healthy for a time, even when planted on different soils.

If your correspondent will examine the potatoes produced from the curly hills of the Peach Blow, I think he will find them of a pale, dead color, while those which are healthy are of a bright, lively red; and the Carters, if he has them, instead of the clear white, natural to this variety, will exhibit a scurfy, yellow appearance. I have noticed, also, that when planted on the same land several years in succession, they were much more affected than when they followed some other crop. I do not know whether Mr. Lee intended to convey the idea that the curly hills were free from rot, or merely that the rot did not necessarily accompany the curl. If the former, I think he is mistaken, for although this is not always the case, still, I think generally the curly potatoes are more exposed to the rot.

The best way to avoid the curl is, undoubtedly, to cultivate hardy kinds; but if we wish to preserve a particular variety, it may be kept mostly clear by planting tubers selected from the best hills, of a clear, bright color, free from scurf, and taking care not to plant the same ground two years in succession.

W. F. B.

Ashfield, *Aug.* 5.

Remarks. — Our correspondent's opinions are in accordance with our own experience and observation. Our Peach Blows have been affected with the curl, while many others on the same piece of land, and under the same treatment, were sound. We once planted several varieties of potatoes imported from England, nearly all of which were affected with the curl. None were diseased excepting the foreign kinds. These facts prove that some varieties are more liable to the curl than others, or that some are very liable to it while others escape.

Our remarks on the 236th page of this volume confirm the opinion as to potatoes being less liable to curl on moist land, and more liable to this disease on land that has been in tillage several years.

BEES.

To the naturalist, this insect presents an object of delightful contemplation, and even to the casual observer, it is not entirely devoid of interest.

Perhaps a slight description of this little busy insect, in connection with a few facts, may be perused with interest and profit by the readers of your amusing and valuable sheet. When a hive becomes very full, by the increase of young bees in the spring, the old queen leaves it to seek a new home, and such of the other bees as choose to follow her fortunes (led by their great regard and affection for their sovereign) quit the hive at the same time, the rest remaining at home. This is termed *swarming*.

The bees which leave the hive, led by the queen, alight upon some neighboring bush or tree, entirely surrounding and covering up her majesty. Here, clinging to each other, in the form of a large ball, they will remain, if undisturbed, for a longer or shorter time, according to circumstances. Immediately after they have thus alighted, if carefully watched, a small number may be seen to leave the mass, and fly off in various directions. These would

seem to be a deputation which are sent out as spies, to discover a new home. Some of these may be seen frequently returning, as it were to make their reports; and as an evidence that honey had not been the object of their flight, no wax or pollen can be seen upon them, as is the case when they return to the hive upon ordinary occasions.

As soon as their spies return with a satisfactory report, (which is sometimes not until the next day,) they leave the bush, and, rising high in the air, start off in a perfectly direct line for their new habitation. This is sometimes at a distance of several miles, and may be located in an old hollow tree, or cleft of a rock. Sometimes they even enter the dwellings of men. A friend of mine in this town once heard a humming or buzzing noise over his head at night, as he was lying in his bed; thinking that it proceeded from the garret, he made an examination, when the noise seemed to be beneath his feet. The next day the mystery was solved, for being out in the yard, he saw some bees going in and coming out of a hole in the side of the house. He then went to the garret, and by listening attentively, discovered their exact location near one corner. He built a small room in this corner, and then sawed through and took up the board which covered them, thus giving the bees a large hive to work in; and work they did, for he told me years afterwards, that this room had supplied the family with an abundance of delicious honey up to that time.

I may as well here remark, that, for common use, large hives are injudicious, as the bees, if placed in them, never swarm, thus preventing any increase of the stock.

The swarm, however, is not often allowed to escape in the manner just described; for, being discovered by some of the family, they are immediately "hived," viz., an empty hive, or box, is placed upon the ground or table, and raised a few inches from it, then the branch or twig upon which the bees have alighted is cut off and placed under the hive, the inside of which has been previously rubbed with lemon balm leaves, (as it is thought that the fragrance of this herb is attractive to the bees,) and almost immediately they ascend and take up their abode within the hive. In the evening, after every thing is quiet, the hive is removed to the place which it is permanently to occupy.

A swarm usually leave the old hive in some very warm, clear day, between the hours of nine in the morning and four in the evening. It is frequently the case, that in eight or ten days after the swarm has left the hive, a second one makes its appearance, and is of course to be treated in the same manner as the first. It does not always happen, however, that two swarms are obtained in one season, though it sometimes occurs that three large ones are hived. A friend at the west had one spring but one hive of bees. They swarmed very largely and very early; it was a fine "bee season;" in a week the old hive sent out another colony, and, still later, a third. The swarm that came first also divided and sent out a strong colony.

The year was a good one, and they all did well, so that in the autumn he had five hives of bees, which yielded him, besides, nearly ten dollars worth of beautiful honey. But this was a rare case, and such astonishing success is by no means common. It is often the case that the third swarm is so feeble, and comes so late, that it is unable to lay up a sufficiency of food for the winter, and soon perishes. When the owner thinks that this is likely to be the case, he should remove the queen from the middle of the swarm, when they have settled upon the branch, and the bees will then return to the hive from which they came. It might at first seem a hazardous undertaking to open a swarm to remove the queen, but it is, with common caution, quite easy. I will not here give the process, for I fear that I shall spin out this article to an unreasonable length, and I have a number of other things to mention. If, however, it should seem to be the general wish, I may at a future time say more on the topic of bees, and also of some other insects. — *Dollar Newspaper.*

LIVE FENCES.

The particular advantage of any kind of fence depends on circumstances. Where suitable stones can be readily obtained, perhaps there is no fence to be preferred to a well-built, permanent wall. If the stones, in the outset, occupy the land so as to interfere with cultivation, the inducement for making wall is increased. In some places, the abundance and cheapness of suitable timber for fences render it most economical to construct them of that material.

The comparative advantages of live and dead fences, in general terms, may be thus stated: — Hedges can be reared where the materials for dead fences cannot be had, and excepting the best of walls, are greatly superior in durability; dead fences commonly occupy less room, shade the ground less, and neither exhaust its moisture or richness, as is done by hedges.

The best plants for hedges, in this county, are undoubtedly the Buckthorn and the Osage Orange. We think the various trials which have been made with different plants, support this conclusion. The Honey Locust, which was considerably tried a few years since, fails to grow thick enough at the bottom, and is generally straggling and open. The English Hawthorn does not stand our hot and dry summers, and is liable to a blight similar to the "leaf-blight," and "fire-blight," in pear-trees. The Newcastle, or American Cock-spur Thorn, and the Washington Thorn, have formerly been used extensively in some of the Middle States, particularly in Delaware, where they succeeded well; but, within a few years, the fine hedges of that section have all been destroyed by the borer, and this insect has also attacked the Hawthorn with equal fatality in many instances. It is true there are some neighborhoods where the Hawthorn has mostly escaped the casualties here mentioned, as in some parts of Seneca and Ontario counties, in this state; but its failure has been so general in most parts of the country, that it cannot be depended on as a hedge plant.

For the Northern States and the Canadas, we should prefer the Buckthorn. Our reasons for the preference are its hardiness, its comparative exemption from disease, and from the attacks of insects, its rapid growth, and the general facility with which it may be made to answer the purpose of an efficient fence. — *Albany Cultivator.*

TO MAKE A HORSE FOLLOW YOU.

You may make any horse follow you in ten minutes. Go to the horse, rub his face, jaw, and chin, leading him about, saying to him, Come along: a constant tone is necessary. By taking him away from other persons and horses, repeat the rubbing, leading and stopping. Sometimes turn him around all ways, and keep his attention by saying, Come along. With some horses it is important to whisper to them, as it hides the secret and *gentles* the horse; you may use any word you please, but be constant in your tone of voice. The same will cause all horses to follow.

MANURE.

Green brush (another species of vegetable manure) deserves to be mentioned among the modes I have recommended for improving poor lands. This sort of manure is to be found on every farm, however exhausted its ground may be. There are two ways of using it beneficially — 1st, spreading it over the surface for the protection of the earth from the too sultry rays of the summer sun, and enabling it in this way (should it be undisturbed for two or three years) to be converted into an excellent compost. 2d, where land is in high ridges and deep furrows, it may be laid in the furrows moderately thick, and then cut, and trodden down, and covered with the plough in the course of time. It thereby forms a most valuable manure. Land manured in this way may be sown with turnip seed by the 10th of August. Every farm has its barren spots, which are best managed by hauling and spreading leaves and top-soil from the woods there, and penning cattle upon them. Their dung, with a little straw mixed in with the leaves and soil, will soon bring these poor grounds into equal heart with the best lands. All the corn-cobs should be carefully saved, and frequently scattered in the barnyard or pig-pen. This is better economy than to burn them, for they are thus rendered more valuable. When hogs are put up to fatten, (if the pen is properly made,) they may be made to make a large quantity of manure, and every farmer well knows that there is no manure more efficacious and useful than that made by these animals. The pen should be without a floor, except that under the house for their shelter in rainy weather, and should be somewhat hollowing in the middle, so that the rains may wash the dung and urine into the centre. All the corn-cobs which daily accumulate in the pen should be gathered there also, so as to become saturated with moisture. An addition of ditch mud also increases both the value and quantity of this manure. By removing old standing fences, and ploughing up their sites, much good compost manure may be obtained, consisting of fertile mould free from producing grubs or other destructive worms, which are so often found on our lands and grain. Ashes, either leached or unleached, are very useful. They have been very extensively used in the United States, particularly on dry or sandy lands. This will do on clayey soil; and as this kind of land is naturally cold, they tend towards heating it. A gill of unleached ashes put around each hill of corn in a cornfield, after the first hoeing, makes the corn a great deal better, and is equal to nearly double the quantity of plaster of Paris; and every body who has studied agriculture knows that no other manure continues in the earth as long as ashes. Plaster is certainly a most valuable manure, and perhaps has been attended with better effects than most other vegetable or mineral substances where it has been fully tried by extensive use. No other, in combination with the different articles of compost manure, will so quickly renew poor lands. It is most beneficially used by rolling it with Indian corn, bushel for bushel; or, when spread over the coarse litter of an enclosed field, it makes it rot much more speedily. Marl is a good manure for sandy soils, if applied in due proportion to the quantity of ground, and afterwards dissolved. In fact, it will suit any soil, and our farmers should search for it early and late, for it will prove more valuable to our state than the famous mines of Potosi. It is found in low, flat lands, near the margin of ponds or rivers. There are three kinds of marl — 1st, calcareous or shell marl; 2d, argillaceous or clayey marl; 3d, siliceous or stony marl. The first is of a yellowish or brown color; it is of a loose texture, and when in connection with acids, it will effervesce. The 2d is mostly of a gray color, and requires aquafortis or some other strong acid to make it effervesce. Siliceous marl is of a lead color; although it effervesces, it does not dissolve so easily as the others, and sometimes it forms a very hard lump. A good artificial marl may be made by mixing equal quantities of lime and pure clay, and placing in layers on a heap, and exposing them to the action of the winter frosts.—*North American Farmer.*

FARMERS' RIGHTS.

This is a subject that should interest any good citizen, whatever may be his avocation, for all are necessarily identified in their comforts, their luxuries, and their pleasures, with the success and improvement of agriculture and horticulture. The merchant, the professional man, the mechanic, all know how to appreciate the bounties of a well-filled basket, the luxuries of a well-furnished table.

Why not, then, extend to the agriculturist the protection, encouragement, the patronage that is secured to other avocations, are inquiries that have tired the patience, and shook the confidence of many a persevering, sacrificing pillar in a community, when they have seen their hard-earned rights neglected, abused, and trampled upon, without remedy; because no adequate provision is made by the legislature to protect them against the continual annoyance of prowling vagabonds, principally strangers, who have escaped from the *galling aristocracy* of European countries, or the more strict regulations of our own cities, to scamper over and trample on the property and peace of the forbearing and unprotected agriculturist of a *free country*, on Sabbath and week day, summer and winter, seedtime and harvest, grain fields and meadows, garden and orchard, poultry and stock alike disturbed and destroyed by loafers and dogs, with perfect impunity.

When shall the end of these things be? Shall they continue? or will we take up the matter in earnest, and petition, and continue to petition, from all quarters of the state, this winter, and every other winter, until our rights are regarded, our labor protected, our enterprise encouraged, our calling exalted, as it should be, among the most honorable, as it is the most useful that has ever, or will be, worthy the attention of the good and the great among mankind?

In addition to improved and wholesome laws, a proper understanding, and organizations throughout the state to promote order and justice, and execute with promptness and rigor, on all such *rebels*, (irresponsible alike in purse and character,) the laws, if laws there be, and mutual assistance of money and influence; then will the tasteful be gratified, the enterprising encouraged, the industrious rewarded, and the legitimate *rights* will be secured to the farmer as well as any other member of the community.

BELLE VILLA.

Hamilton Co., O., 1850.

CLEANSING THE BARK OF FRUIT-TREES.

We have often recommended the use of whale oil, soap, potash, &c., for the cleansing the bark of fruit-trees, and supposed that no application could exceed it for this purpose. A few weeks since we visited the seat of Robert Rennie, Esq., near the Lodi Print Works, and there saw the cleanest fruit-trees it has ever been our lot to meet with. Mr. Rennie informed us that he used a solution made of one pound of best bleachers' soda dissolved in one gallon of water, and applied it to the surface of his trees. All the fungi, dead bark, &c., are softened, and readily exfoliate from the healthy part of the bark during the growth of the tree; the surfaces of the cherry, peach, plum, nectarine, apricot, and many other kinds of trees

seemed polished, and of a color more closely resembling the new growth at the ends of branches than usual; the trees were in excellent health, and we were informed that they bore superior crops to those not so treated. Within the last few days we have applied the soda wash to our trees, and, for the purpose of ascertaining if so strong a solution would injure the tender parts of plants, have sprinkled it over the leaves of many tender shrubs; but as yet they are uninjured, while the inert parts of vegetables are readily decomposed by it. — *Working Farmer.*

STARCH FROM INDIAN CORN.

Many of our readers are not aware of the extent of this new branch of manufacture, which we hope soon to see take the place of whiskey distilleries in the consumption of our great American staple, Indian corn. There is now in operation, at Oswego, New York, a manufactory that consumes 2,000 bushels of corn a week, which makes 40,000 lbs. of the whitest and most beautiful starch for all domestic purposes, whether for the laundry or pantry. The building is 130 by 190 feet, five stories high, (to which an addition is about being erected,) and contains 200 cisterns for precipitating the starch, eleven furnaces with drying rooms, and employs about 70 men, and manufactures upwards of $120,000 worth of starch annually. There are two other similar establishments in the United States, and yet the demand is constantly increasing.

It is found that this kind of starch is superior to any other for culinary purposes, because it is always made from clean, sweet corn, the gluten of which is separated by a peculiar process of grinding and washing, the corn being first steeped in a chemical liquor, then reduced to pulp, sifted, and filtrated, and passed into huge cisterns, whence it flows through long, narrow troughs, draining off the water through coarse cotton cloths. In twelve hours, the starch becomes like wet clay, capable of being handled and dried, a process that requires much care and a powerful heat. The residue of the corn is used for feeding hogs and other domestic animals.

This is a new use of Indian corn, but one, we hope, that will prove profitable to the manufacturer, and induce a very large consumption of this grain, and thereby increase the price to the grower. We should like to have some statistics of the other corn starch manufactories in the country for the purpose of noticing them as being intimately connected with the interest of the agricultural community, and the object of our journal. — *American Agriculturist.*

THE TOMATO.

This plant or vegetable, sometimes called *Love Apple, or Jerusalem Apple,* which belongs to the same genus with the potato, was first found in South America. The use of this fruit as food is said to have been derived from the Spaniards. It has been long used also by the French and Italians. The date of its introduction to this country is unknown. It is said that the tomato has been used in some parts of Illinois for more than fifty years. Its introduction on our tables, as a culinary vegetable, is of recent date. Thirty years ago, it was hardly known, but as an ornament to the flower garden, and for pickling. It is now cultivated in all parts of the country, and found either in a cooked or raw state on most tables. In warm climates it is said that they are more used than in northern, and have a more agreeable taste. It is now used, in various parts of the country, in soups and sauces, to which it imparts an agreeable acid flavor; and is also stewed and dressed in various ways, very much admired, and many people consider it a great luxury. We often hear it said that a relish for this vegetable is an acquired one; scarcely any person at first liking it. It has, indeed, within a few years, come into very general use, and is considered a particularly healthy article. A learned medical professor in the west pronounces the tomato a very wholesome food in various ways, and advises the daily use of it. He says that it is very salutary in dyspepsia and indigestion, and is a good antidote to bilious disorders, to which persons are liable in going from a northern to a warmer climate. He recommends the use of it also in diarrhœa, and thinks it preferable to calomel. The tomato is a tender, herbaceous plant, of rank growth, but weak, fetid, and glutinous. The leaves resemble those of the potato, but the flowers are yellow, and arranged in large divided branches. The fruit is of a light yellow, and a bright red color, pendulous, and formed like the large squash-shaped pepper. There are smaller varieties, one pear-shaped variety, and also red and yellow. These are eaten and relished by many from the hand. The red are best for cooking; the yellow for slicing like cucumbers, seasoned with pepper, salt, and vinegar, and eaten raw. The seed should be sown in the early part of March, in a slight hotbed, and the plants set out in the open ground in May. In private grounds, it will be necessary to plant them near a fence, or to provide trellises for them to be trained to, in the same manner as for nasturtions; they will, however, do very well if planted out four feet distant from each other every way. But a nice way to keep the plant erect, and the fruit from the ground, is to drive down four stakes, so as to make a square, sow two feet each way, around the stakes. These will keep the vines from falling, and expose the fruit nicely to the sun for ripening. They will bear till frost. — *Journal of Agriculture.*

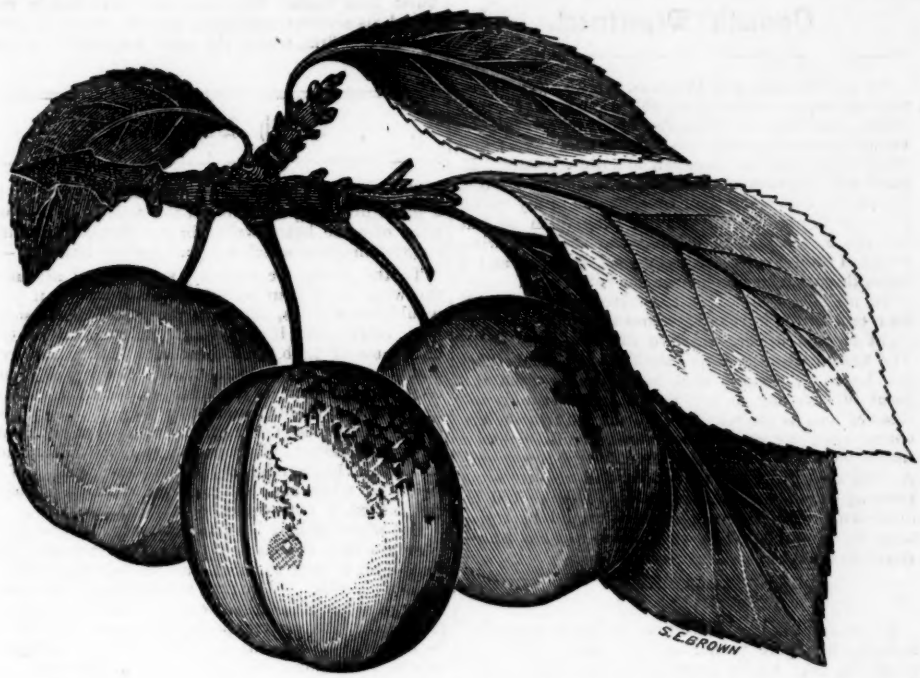
WOODEN BOOKS.

Mr. Vattemare proposes specimens of our forest trees in the form of books. In a collection of the kind in Warsenstein, near Cassel, the back of each volume is formed of the bark of the tree, the sides are constructed of polished pieces of the same stock, and when put together, a box is formed, inside of which is stored the fruit, the seed, and leaves, with the moss that grows upon the trunk, and the insects which feed upon the tree. Every volume corresponds in size, and the collection altogether, as may well be imagined, has an excellent effect. — *American Artisan.*

To destroy Rats. — Professed rat-catchers in England use the following compound, and so affected are rats by this perfume that they can be taken by hand with impunity.

Powdered assafœtida, one quarter grain; oil of aniseseed, one drachm; essential oil of lavender, one scruple; essential oil of rhodium, three drachms. Mix this compound, and spread it on the bait in the trap.

Covering for Gravel Walks. — Decomposed sandstone is an excellent covering for walks, in order to bind any loose material of which they may be formed. Soon after its application, the surface becomes perfectly smooth, and almost as firm as a flag. The walks may be swept during wet weather, nearly as well as when it is dry. — *Gardeners' Chron.*



JEFFERSON PLUM.

This plum has been brought into public notice within a short period. A few years ago it was recommended by some writers as the very best of plums, and this high commendation has led to its extensive dissemination. Although this is an excellent plum, all things considered, and it should be ranked with the first, yet it is not *the* best in every respect. The Green Gage excels it in quality; the Peach, Manning's Long Blue, Lombard, Prince's Imperial Gage, and many others excel it as growers, and several kinds are larger. Yet the Jefferson is a tolerably good grower, the fruit is large, and in quality it ranks as first rate, for we have several varieties of plums classed as best, though not hardly equal to that standard of high excellence, the Green Gage. Here we would remark, that as tastes differ, some persons prefer plums of a spirited, vinous flavor, to the sweet and luscious.

The fruit is large, roundish-oval, slightly narrowed at the base, slight suture; greenish-yellow, and when fully ripened in the sun, a golden yellow, and a blush of purplish-red, thin white bloom; stalk about an inch long, rather stout, in a slight cavity; flesh a rich orange, rather fine, juicy, of a high, rich flavor; nearly freestone. Ripens from the last of August to September 15 or 20. A good bearer, and a tolerably vigorous grower, but it grows unpleasantly in the nursery, as it is disposed to branch low. The fruit will hang long on the tree, and is not very liable to rot. Originated by the late Judge Buel, Albany, N. Y.

We had some fine specimens of this plum from our generous friend, Andrew Lackey, Jr., Marblehead, from which our engraving is made. Mr. L. obtained the Jefferson by mistake, for some other plum, several years ago, and when considerable stir was made in regard to the great excellence of this plum, and many were anxious to see the fruit raised in New England, he was so fortunate as to have a good-sized tree in full bearing.

HOW TO EXAMINE WELLS.

The following simple mode of examining a well, to ascertain whether it contains any offensive substances, has been recommended as efficient: Place a common mirror over the well in such a position as to catch and throw the rays of the sun directly to the bottom of the well, which will instantly be illuminated in such a manner that the smallest pebbles, &c., at the bottom, can be as distinctly discerned as if they were held in the hand. The sun is in the best situation to be reflected in the morning or afternoon.

Plants in Pots. — Your camellia does not bloom, because it did not set any flower-buds last spring, when it made its growth for the season, and it probably did not form buds then, for want of proper soil or water at that time. It is precisely during the two or three weeks while it is growing, that it requires especial care. At that time, plenty of water, air, and sun, and twice a week some guano water, will give you an abundance of flowers next year. — *Horticulturist.*

Domestic Department.

Swing Shelves for Cellars. — This very essential convenience should be the occupant of every cellar, especially the farmer's. They are very convenient for setting milk, cakes, pies, bread, &c.; and when properly made there can be nothing better. If made with wooden arms, they are sometimes visited by mice. This being the case with one in my cellar, I contrived almost every way to keep them off, but did not succeed until I hung the shelf on wire, which I find answers a very good purpose, and I think there can be no cheaper nor better way.

To make a double shelf, twelve feet long, with four cross bars, it requires about ten yards of wire, eight for the upper, and two for the lower shelf. The reason why the upper shelf requires more than the lower is, because it is hung farther from the point of fastening, and it requires two strands instead of one, as the whole weight of the two shelves comes upon the upper wires; four strands eighteen inches long is all that is required for the lower one. A shelf made after the above plan will require some bracing, in order to keep it steady; this should be done with wire, as wooden braces would be worse than wooden arms. The wire I used was No. 12. — *Rural New-Yorker.*

To make Tomato Preserves. — Wash your tomatoes, then pare them; and for every pound of tomatoes, take half a pound of refined loaf sugar; dissolve the sugar in a sufficient quantity of water to make it into sirup, in a preserving kettle over a slow fire; when your sugar is dissolved, put your tomatoes and the third of a lemon, sliced, into the sirup, and boil slowly, until the tomatoes are cooked; then take the tomatoes carefully out of the sirup, and cool them on a dish; continue to boil the sirup slowly, until the tomatoes are cooled; then strain your sirup through a hair sieve, and put the sirup and tomatoes back into the kettle, and boil them very slowly, for half an hour; then, if the sirup is boiled to the consistence of molasses, your preserves may be put into jars as soon as cooled.

A good Cup of Tea. — M. Soyer recommends that before pouring any water in, the teapot, with the tea in it, shall be placed in the oven until hot, or heated, and the pot then filled with boiling water. The result, he says, will be, in about a minute, a most delicious cup of tea, much superior to that drawn in the ordinary way.

Youth's Department.

The best Recommendation. — A youth seeking employment in New York, on inquiring at a certain store if they wished a clerk, was told they did not. On mentioning the recommendations he had, the merchant desired to see them. In turning over his carpet bag to find his letters, a book rolled out on the floor. "What is that?" said the merchant. "It is the Bible, sir," was the reply. "And what are you going to do with that book in New York?" said the merchant. The lad looked seriously into the merchant's face, and replied, "I promised my mother I would read it every day, and I shall do it," and burst into tears. The merchant immediately engaged his services, and in due time he became a partner in the firm, one of the most respectable in the city.

Health Department.

The Bath — Hints for the Season. — There is a great deal of good sense in the following suggestions of some letter writer in the Mobile Tribune; suggestions, too, which are good for any latitude: —

To the young we earnestly say, As you are now throwing aside your winter clothing, bathe; if you would avoid colds, the sure precursors of all sickness, bathe; and if you would enjoy your youth, blitheness of limb, and cheer of spirits, bathe frequently. The ancients knew its efficacy, and practised it throughout, as the wisest of the moderns do. The theory of Beau Brummel has grown into a proverb — "There is no perfume like that of fresh linen; no cosmetic like pure water, and plenty of it." But what boy has not felt the invigoration of a swim, or what man fatigued, of a free ablution? Bathe then, if you would be healthy.

But while bathing is so important to the young, it is no less so to the mature. Of all the thousand ills that flesh is heir to, none can exceed these three common curses — dyspepsia, rheumatism, and gout. Though when these are once seated they are deemed immovable, the most experienced physicians assure us they can be prevented, as they are clearly traceable to the stopping up of the pores of the skin.

Then, if you would preserve your digestion, and enjoy the good things of this life, bathe. If you would avoid rheumatism, and indulge in that joyous exercise which brings health, and every other comfort, bathe. And lest you be bedridden, and tortured everlastingly with gout, bathe, and bathe freely.

With the best of motives, we again affirm, if there be a cheap luxury in the world, it is a hot, cold, or shower bath.

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

The Using of Paint. — It is not an uncommon thing for some paints, especially when exposed to the atmosphere, to rub off like whitewash, after they had been put on for about six or eight months. We have known white paint to do this, although both the oil and white lead were said to be good. In respect to white paint, which is most extensively used, there are three things which may be the cause of its inferiority and rubbing off. These are bad oil, bad lead, and too much turpentine. The best linseed oil only should be used, and it should be boiled, but not too long, nor at too great a heat. Linseed oil is frequently adulterated with sunflower oil, which is very inferior to that of linseed.

Sometimes white lead is sold which is very inferior to others, but painters know how to judge between the good and bad. The best can easily be ascertained by painters, from the quantity of oil required to give it proper consistency. In mixing paints, there should be no turpentine at all used for outside work, (at most the smallest possible quantity,) because the turpentine makes a soap of the oil; consequently, it soon will rub off, or be washed away by storms, &c. The only benefit of boiling linseed oil is to drive away its moisture and ammonia, so that the gluten of the oil will form a beautiful skin of varnish when dry,

to protect the lead from the effects of the atmosphere: while turpentine forms a good varnish with resins and gums, its combination with oil is altogether different, forming a soap; hence, those who know not this fact, and use too much turpentine with their paints for outside work, may expect to see it disappear before it is very old. The best way to put on white lead for outside work, is to commence with a very thin coat, and let it dry perfectly. It is better to put on four thin coats, one after another, than two thick ones. The labor, to be sure, is more expensive, but those who buy their own paint, and use it in the country, will find out that it will be a saving in the end. — *Scientific American.*

OUR COUNTRY VILLAGES.

Without any boasting, it may safely be said, that the natural features of our common country (as the speakers in Congress call her) are as agreeable and prepossessing as those of any other land, whether merry England, *la belle France*, or the German fatherland. We have greater lakes, larger rivers, broader and more fertile prairies than the old world can show; and if the Alleghanies are rather dwarfish when compared to the Alps, there are peaks, and summits, "castle hills," and volcanoes, in our great back-bone range of the Pacific, — the Rocky Mountains — which may safely hold up their heads along with Mont Blanc and the Jungfrau.

Providence, then, has blessed the country — our country — with "natural born" features, which we may look upon and be glad. But how have we sought to deform the fair landscape here and there, by little, miserable, shabby-looking towns and villages; not miserable and shabby-looking from the poverty and wretchedness of the inhabitants, for in no land is there more peace and plenty; but miserable and shabby-looking from the absence of taste, symmetry, order, space, proportion, all that constitutes beauty. Ah, well and truly did Cowper say,

"God made the country, but *man* made the town;"

for in the one we every where see utility and beauty harmoniously combined, while the other presents us but too often the reverse; that is to say, the marriage of utility and deformity.

Some of our readers may remind us that we have already preached a sermon from this text. No matter; we should be glad to preach fifty; yes, or even establish a sect, as that seems the only way of making proselytes now, whose duty it should be to convert people living in the country towns to the true faith; we mean the true rural faith, viz., that it is immoral and uncivilized to live in mean and uncouth villages, where there is no poverty or want of intelligence in the inhabitants; that there is nothing laudable in having a piano-forte and mahogany chairs in the parlor, where the streets outside are barren, and destitute of shade trees, destitute of sidewalks, and populous with pigs and geese.

We are bound to admit (with a little shame and humiliation, being a native of New York, the "Empire State") that there is one part of the Union where the millennium of country towns, and good government, and rural taste has not only commenced, but is in full domination. We mean, of course, Massachusetts. The traveller may go from one end of that state to the other, and find flourishing villages, with broad streets, lined with maples and elms, behind which are goodly rows of neat and substantial dwellings, full of evidences of order, comfort, and taste. Throughout the whole state, no animals are allowed to run at large in the streets of towns and villages. Hence so much more cleanliness than elsewhere; so much more order and neatness; so many more pretty rural lanes; so many inviting flower gardens and orchards, only separated from the passer-by by a low railing or hedge, instead of a formidable board fence. Now, if you cross the state line into New York, — a state of far greater wealth than Massachusetts, as long settled, and nearly as populous, — you feel directly that you are in the land of "pigs and poultry," in the least agreeable sense of the word. In passing through villages and towns, the truth is still more striking as you go to the south and west; and you feel little or nothing of that sense of "how pleasant it must be to live here," which the traveller through Berkshire, or the Connecticut valley, or the pretty villages about Boston, feels moving his heart within him. You are rather inclined to wish there were two new commandments, namely: Thou shalt plant trees, to hide the nakedness of the streets; and, Thou shalt not keep pigs — except in the back yard.

Our more reflective and inquiring readers will naturally ask, Why is this better condition of things, a condition that denotes better citizens, better laws, and higher civilization, confined almost wholly to Massachusetts? To save them an indefinite deal of painstaking, research, and investigation, we will tell them in a few words: *That state is better educated than the rest.* She sees the advantage, morally and socially, of orderly, neat, tasteful villages in producing better citizens, in causing the laws to be respected, in making homes dearer and more sacred, in making domestic life and the enjoyment of property to be more truly and rightly estimated.

And these are the legitimate and natural results of this kind of improvement we so ardently desire in the outward life and appearance of rural towns. If our readers suppose us anxious for the building of good houses, and the planting of street avenues, solely that the country may look more beautiful to the eye, and that the taste shall be gratified, they do us an injustice. This is only the external sign by which we would have the country's health and beauty known, as we look for the health and beauty of its fair daughters in the presence of the rose on their cheeks. But as the latter only blooms lastingly there, when a good constitution is joined with healthful habits of mind and body, so the tasteful appearance which we long for in our country towns, we seek as the outward mark of education, moral sentiment, love of home, and refined cultivation, which makes the difference between Massachusetts and Madagascar.

We have, in a former number, said something as to the practical manner in which "graceless villages" may be improved. We have urged the force of example in those who set about improving their own property, and shown the influence of even two or three persons, in giving an air of civilization and refinement to the streets and suburbs of country towns. There is not a village in America, however badly planned at first, or ill-built afterwards, that may not be redeemed, in a great measure, by the aid of shade trees in the streets, and a little shrubbery in the front yards; and it is never too late or too early to project improvements of this kind. Every spring and every autumn should visit a revival of associated efforts on the part of selectmen, trustees of corporations, and persons of means and influence, to adorn and embellish the external condition of their towns. Those least alive to the results, as regards beauty, may be roused as to the effects of increased value given to property thus improved, and villages thus rendered attractive and desirable as places of residence.

But let us now go a step farther than this. In no country, perhaps, are there so many *new* villages and towns laid out every year as in the United States. Indeed, so large is the number, that the builders and

projectors are fairly at a loss for names,— ancient and modern history having been literally worn threadbare by the godfathers, until all association with great heroes and mighty deeds is fairly beggared by this rechristening going on in our new settlements and future towns, as yet only populous to the extent of six houses. And notwithstanding the apparent vastness of our territory, the growth of new towns and new states is so wonderful — fifteen or twenty years giving a population of hundreds of thousands, where all was wilderness before — that the plan and arrangement of new towns ought to be a matter of national importance. And yet, to judge by the manner in which we see the thing done, there has not, in the whole duration of the republic, been a single word said, or a single plan formed, calculated to embody past experience or to assist in any way the laying out of a village or town.

We have been the more struck by this fact, in observing the efforts of some companies who have lately, upon the Hudson, within some twenty or thirty miles of New York, undertaken to lay out rural villages, with some pretension to taste and comfort; and aim, at least, at combining the advantages of the country with easy railroad access to them.

Our readers more interested in such matters (and taking our principal cities together, it is a pretty large class) will be interested to know what is the beau ideal of these companies, who undertake to buy tracts of land, lay them out in the best manner, and form the most complete and attractive rural villages, in order to tempt those tired of the way-worn life of sidewalks into a neighborhood where, without losing society, they can see the horizon, breathe the fresh air, and walk upon elastic greensward.

Well, the beau ideal of these newly-planned villages is not down to the zero of dirty lanes and shadeless roadsides; but it rises, we are sorry to say, no higher than streets, lined on each side with shade trees, and bordered with rows of houses. For the most part, these houses (cottages, we presume) are to be built on fifty feet lots; or if any buyer is not satisfied with that amount of elbow room, he may buy two lots, though certain that his neighbor will still be within twenty feet of his fence. And this is the sum total of the rural beauty, convenience, and comfort of the latest plan for a rural village in the Union.* The buyer gets nothing more than he has in town, save his little patch of back and front yard, a little peep down the street, looking one way at the river, and the other way at the sky. So far from gaining any thing which all inhabitants of a village should gain by the combination, one of these new villagers actually loses; for if he were to go by himself, he would buy land cheaper, and have a fresh landscape of fields and hills around him, instead of houses on all sides, almost as closely placed as in the city, which he has endeavored to fly from.

Now, a rural village, newly planned in the suburbs of a great city, and planned, too, specially for those whose circumstances will allow them to own a tasteful cottage in such a village, should present attractions much higher than this. It should aim at something higher than mere rows of houses, upon streets crossing each other at right angles, and bordered with shade trees. Any one may find as good shade trees, and much better houses, in certain streets of the city which he leaves behind him; and if he is to give up fifty conveniences and comforts, long enjoyed in town, for the mere fact of fresh air, he had better take board during the summer months in some snug farm-house, as before.

* We say *plan*; but we do not mean to include in this such villages as Northampton, Brookline, &c., beautiful and tasteful as they are. But they are in Massachusetts.

The indispensable desiderata, in rural villages of this kind, are the following: First, a large, open space, common, or park, situated in the middle of the village; not less than twenty acres, and better if fifty or more in extent. This should be well planted with groups of trees, and kept as a lawn. The expense of mowing it would be paid by the grass in some cases, and in others, a considerable part of the space might be enclosed with a wire fence, and fed by sheep or cows, like many of the public parks in England.

This park would be the nucleus or *heart of the village*, and would give it an essentially rural character. Around it should be grouped all the best cottages and residences of the place; and this would be secured by selling no lots fronting upon it of less than one fourth of an acre in extent. Wide streets, with rows of elms or maples, should diverge from the park on each side, and upon these streets smaller lots, but no smaller than one hundred feet front should be sold for smaller cottages.

In this way, we would secure to our village a permanent rural character; first, by the possession of a large central space, always devoted to park or pleasure ground, and always held as joint property, and for the common use of the whole village; second, by the imperative arrangement of cottages or dwellings around it, in such a way as to secure, in all parts of the village, sufficient space, view, circulation of air, and broad, well-planted avenues of shade trees.

After such a village is built, and the central park planted a few years, the inhabitants would not be contented with the mere meadow and trees, usually called a park in this country. By submitting to a small annual tax per family, they could turn the whole park, if small, or considerable portions, here and there, if large, into pleasure grounds. In the latter there would be collected, by the combined means of the village, all the rare, hardy shrubs, trees, and plants usually found in the private grounds of any amateur in America. Beds and masses of ever-blooming roses, sweet-scented climbers, and the richest shrubs would thus be open to the enjoyment of all during the whole growing season. Those who had neither the means, time, nor inclination to devote to the culture of private pleasure grounds, could thus enjoy those which belonged to all. Others might prefer to devote their own garden to fruits and vegetables, since the pleasure grounds, which belonged to all, and which all would enjoy, would, by their greater breadth and magnitude, offer beauties and enjoyments which few private gardens can give.

The next step, after the possession of such public pleasure grounds, would be the social and common enjoyment of them. Upon the well-mown glades of lawn, and beneath the shade of the forest trees, would be formed rustic seats. Little arbors would be placed near, where, in midsummer evenings, ices would be served to all who wished them. And, little by little, the musical taste of the village (with the help of those good musical folks, the German emigrants) would organize itself into a band, which would occasionally delight the ears of all frequenters of the park with popular airs.

Do we overrate the mental and moral influences of such a common ground of entertainment as this, when we say that the inhabitants of such a village, enjoying in this way a common interest in flowers, trees, the fresh air, and sweet music, daily, would have something more healthful than the ordinary life of cities, and more refining and elevating than the common gossip of country villages?

"Ah, I see, Mr. Editor, you are a bit of a communist." By no means. On the contrary, we believe, above all things under heaven, in the power and virtue of the *individual home*. We devote our life and humble efforts to raising its condition. But

people *must* live in towns and villages, and therefore let us raise the condition of towns and villages, and especially of rural towns and villages, by all possible means!

But we are *republican*; and—shall we confess it?—we are a little vexed, that as a people generally, we do not see how much in America we lose by not using the advantages of republicanism. We mean now, for refined culture, physical comfort, and the like. Republican *education* we are now beginning pretty well to understand the value of; and it will not be long before it will be hard to find a native citizen who cannot read and write. And this comes by making every man see what a great moral and intellectual good comes from cheerfully bearing a part in the burden of popular education. Let us next take up popular refinement in the arts, manners, social life, and innocent enjoyments, and we shall see what a virtuous and educated republic can really become.

Besides this, it is the proper duty of the state, that is, *the people*, to do in this way what the reigning power does in a monarchy. If the kings and princes in Germany, and the sovereign of England, have made magnificent parks and pleasure gardens, and thrown them wide open for the enjoyment of all classes of the people, (the latter, after all, having to pay for it,) may it not be that our sovereign *people* will (far more cheaply, as they may) make and support these great and healthy sources of pleasure and refinement for themselves in America? We believe so; and we confidently wait for the time when public parks, public gardens, public galleries, and tasteful villages, shall be among the peculiar features of our happy republic. — *Horticulturist.*

COMPOSITION OF SOILS.

Clay is a compound of silica and alumina, chemically combined. Much of the ordinary clay observable in this country, and, indeed, wherever this earth exists, contains an extra quantity of silica in the form of sand, and of various degrees of fineness. This, however, may be easily separated by boiling in water; that portion of it which is in a state of actual combination with it, can be separated only by the action of chemical re-agents. In all clays there is found a quantity of iron in a state of greater or less oxidation, and it has been supposed that this metal constitutes an essential part of every clayey mass. Hence we have clays of various colors — black, and yellow, brown, and red; the shade or distinguishing hue varying in accordance with the different degrees of oxidation — the black designating the lowest, and the red the highest. Oxygen of iron is also frequently combined with acids, especially phosphoric, in marshes, where the latter is produced by the decomposition of vegetable matter.

The origin of clay is no doubt traceable to the disintegration and decomposition of rocky masses. Pure clay, or that which is ordinarily contemplated in this light, is wisely eschewed by the practical cultivator, familiar with the characteristics of soils, as totally unsusceptible of profitable cultivation. When wet, it adheres in plastic glutinous masses, retaining water, and exhibiting a nature so adhesive as not to admit of being worked. When dry, it is compact, solid, and impermeable. Lands ordinarily denominated clayey are among the best grass soils, producing abundantly, and maintaining their vegetative powers unimpaired for years. In all such soils, however, there will, upon examination or analysis, be discovered a very large per cent. of silex, or earth of a diametrically opposite nature. The action of this upon the clayey corpuscles, or atoms, is to destroy their adhesiveness, and impart to the mass a degree of pulverulent power, which has a most emendatory effect in preparing the soil for the successful action of the plough, and the sustenance and support of valuable crops of vegetables, grass, and grains. Fields which the utmost ingenuity of man will fail to render productive, and which the application of whole cargoes of putrescent manure would be insufficient to render permanently productive, in consequence of the fatal predominance of this primitive earth, may, however, be ameliorated, and brought to a condition of great and astonishing fruitfulness, by the use of sand. The quantity necessary to be applied to insure this amelioration, of the constitutional texture, we can decide accurately only by experiment. One thing, however, is certain: no clayey soil will be likely to receive injury from large applications, and the probability is, that, as a general thing, too little will be accorded, rather than too much.

It may here be proper to remark that the three ingredients of which clay is composed, namely, alumina, silica, and oxide of iron, are united in it in very variable proportions. So great, indeed, is this discrepancy, that two specimens are rarely to be met with which are not distinguished by some appreciable difference. The predominance of silica is often so great, that it amounts to not less than ninety-three parts in one hundred. Alumina seldom constitutes the principal part of it, but such is the peculiar nature of the latter, that when clay has been freed from silica by washing it, it is still found to exist in two different states, — first, a sort of sediment or deposit, which is discoverable after the clay has been boiled a considerable time in a sufficient quantity of water, and which cannot be called *sand*, though it consists of grains or granules of exceeding minuteness, and smaller, even, than the atoms precipitated from a solution of flints. These matters, however, pertain rather to the laboratory than the field: to follow them out may be productive of important advantages in the details and application of science, but they are involved in too much abstruseness to be profitably dwelt upon here.

It is enough for the practical farmer to know, that by a liberal application of sand to his viscid and glutinous clays, together with a quantity of fermentable manure, he may so far ameliorate their texture as to render them susceptible of profitable cultivation; and that lands once thoroughly ameliorated by the application of this constitutional alterant, are possessed of a *permanent* value which can never be imparted to them in any *other* way. A friend writing to me not long since, on a topic associated indirectly with this subject, in concluding his letter, says,—

"I have recently attempted the improvement of a portion of my estate by the means you recommended in your letter of last June, and am confident that the means used will more than realize my most sanguine expectations, as I have since noticed the beneficial effects of it on a farm in an adjoining town. The land was a clay field, so poor that nothing had grown upon it, that could be considered valuable, for many years. It was ploughed, harrowed, and *sanded* — not less than two hundred cart-loads of fine road sand having been applied to an acre, and *harrowed* in. After this, about ten cords of long manure were applied, and covered by the same implement. The field was then struck off into rows eighteen inches apart, and potatoes dropped in the usual manner of planting that crop. *The yield was exuberant!* I have not been able to ascertain with accuracy the amount, but my friend, the owner, informed me that it was the heaviest ever produced on his farm. Gypsum, after the rate of three bushels to the acre, was applied directly to the plants after hoeing."
— *Germantown Telegraph.*

CULTIVATION OF WINTER WHEAT.

Dr. Holmes: Once more I wish to call the attention of the farmers of this state to the importance of raising winter wheat, believing, as I now do, that it may be grown to better advantage than spring wheat *ever* has been. I ground my opinion on the fact, that when a proper method of cultivation has been pursued, the average crop for six years past has been about twenty bushels to the bushel of seed sown, and in no instance a failure, or less than fifteen bushels per acre. But once has the rust injured it at all, and then but slightly; smut, none; and weevils, never, unless very late sown, (late in 10th mo.)

The variety I sow was imported from Poland, latitude north of us; and whether it is hardier than other sorts sown hereabouts, I know not, never having sown any other; but this has stood hard freezing, as well as English grass along side of it, as I had a fair experiment in the winter of 1848–9. My wheat was on a ridge of land exposed to the winds from all quarters. Nearly all winter a portion of the ground was bare of snow. In the spring, the plants above ground were as dead and dry as old stubble; but a few warm days brought up green blades that produced fine wheat. I have raised this wheat on all the varieties of dry soil commonly cultivated in this state — upon old ploughed ground, green sward, and clover sod, turned over after a hay crop was taken off, and with light top-dressings of compost, leached ashes, lime, and rotten, strawy manure from the stable. The compost gave the best crop.

Our present crop is ready for the sickle, and it is judged that it will produce twenty-five bushels to the acre. It is growing on clover sod, ploughed soon after the hay was taken off last summer. One half the lot had twenty single horse-cart loads of compost to the acre, the other half had none. The seed was sown the 25th of 8th mo., one bushel per acre, and covered about two or three inches with a light, single-horse plough, (the plough being gauged to keep it from going deeper,) and rolled with a large single-horse roller. This land has been manured but moderately for many years; consequently the growth of wheat is not so large as some I have seen the present season. Had the clover been ploughed under in the 6th month, no doubt the crop would have been increased many bushels.

The time of sowing depends much on the state of the land. If green sward, or land lightly manured, from the 10th to the 25th of the 8th month is the desirable time, though I would not discourage sowing it later, if it cannot otherwise be done. On land in high cultivation, it may safely be sown till the 20th of the 9th month. I have known thirty bushels to be raised to the acre on land where corn had been raised the same year the wheat was sown, and taken off about the 18th.

The object of early sowing is, that the grain may get deep root, ripen early, and thereby escape the weevil; and also that the surface of the ground may be well covered in autumn, to protect it against hard freezing. If a large growth is obtained in autumn, turn on calves and sheep to feed it; otherwise there is danger of its falling so thick as to mould, and nearly stifle the plants. A friend of mine lost half his crop in this way last year.

On mellow, rich soil, one bushel of seed is quite sufficient for an acre; on weaker land, two to four quarts more are required.

If any portion of these hastily written, desultory remarks are worth spreading before the readers of the Farmer, thou art at liberty so to do; and if a few farmers thereby may be induced to give their attention to the growing of winter wheat, we shall be fully remunerated. I would adopt the sentiment of a good citizen farmer, who came to buy buckwheat for sowing: "Although I shall not from this seed grow grain that will make superfine wheat flour, I hope to get a tolerable substitute, saving a few dollars that would otherwise go to purchase western flour, and thereby do the state some service."

I am truly thy friend,

M. TABER.

Vassalboro', 8*th mo.*, 2d, 1850.

— *Maine Farmer.*

PROPOSED REMEDY FOR STEALING FRUIT.

Many farmers in this vicinity are deterred from cultivating fruits, from the fact of its liability to be stolen by unruly boys, not to say men, or animals in the shape of men. Now, if we lived among Arabs, we should probably expect this; but in a civilized community, governed, as we claim to be, by laws, and where a very large proportion of the inhabitants are themselves cultivators of the soil, this state of things is really too bad. Having seen various remedies suggested, such as bull-dogs, tartar emetic, hedge fences, &c., I have thought of proposing a plan, which, if thoroughly carried out, I have no doubt would be more effectual than all others combined. Let every person, who occupies a single rod of ground, plant a grape-vine, a peach-tree, a pear-tree, an apple-tree, and if natural fruit, graft or bud them with some of the best varieties in the neighborhood. Plant also a few cherry-stones, if you can find no tree that you are able to buy; set out a currant bush, or raspberry plant, by the side of the fence, — and almost any person can have these given to him if he will only take the trouble to set them in the ground; or, if not given him, the expense is a mere trifle, a few shillings at most, and my word for it, no man who knows the pleasure, yes, the *pleasure* of cultivating, and the vexation of having them stolen, will ever be guilty, nor suffer his children to be guilty, of such meanness afterwards.

But it may be said, "I have no land to spare for such things as these; I must raise what will turn to the most profit." Now, I ask, what will pay better than fruit of almost every kind, at the present day? Besides, would you not prefer being at a little trouble, or even a trifling expense, to raise these things, rather than have your children pilfer, or even beg them of your neighbors? But it will be said, "I shall not live long enough to enjoy them, if I do take all this trouble." Are you sure of that? You can probably get a fair crop of grapes in two or three years, if you will simply train a vine to your house, or plant it in your garden or yard, and set a pole by the side of it to run upon; and so with almost every kind of fruit-tree. They will bear in much less time than is generally supposed, if they are only taken care of. But supposing you do not live to enjoy it yourself, do you wish to do nothing for your children? or do you wish the world to be no better for your having lived therein? If so, go on in the "even tenor of your ways," and encourage your children to "follow in your footsteps," and your wish will probably be gratified. S. E.

— *Am. Agriculturist.*

A Curious Fact.—The blubber on a fat whale is sometimes, in its thickest parts, from fifteen to twenty inches thick, though seldom more than a foot; it is of a coarser texture and much harder than fat pork. So very full of oil is it that a cask closely packed with the clean raw fat of the whale will not contain the oil boiled from it, and the scraps are left beside: this has been frequently proved by experiment.

VIRTUES OF MILK.

It is a most perfect diet. Nothing like it — it contains curd casein, which is necessary for the development and formation of muscle — butter for the production of an adequate supply of fat — sugar to feed the respiration, and thereby add warmth to the body — the phosphates of lime and magnesia, the peroxide of iron, the chlorides of potassium and soda, with the free soda, required to give solidity and strength to the bone — together with the saline particles so essentially necessary for other parts of the body. It contains lactic acid, or the acid of milk, which chemists inform us is the acid of the gastric juice, so requisite for the proper dissolving of our food in the stomach. It is therefore obvious that milk should be chemically correct in all its constituents, and that its beneficial effects on the constitution should not be neutralized by adulteration; it is, Dr. Prout properly states, "the true type of all food." How necessary, therefore, is it that it should be pure! otherwise this wonderful and wise provision of Providence will be a curse rather than a blessing. — *Bugg's Observations on Milk.*

THE FREJOLE BEAN.

This is the true name of the Mexican Black Bean, which we have been recommending for several years past, and which we still think is *decidedly* the best winter bean ever cultivated in this region. There is no other comparable with it — the Lima, for winter use, being entirely thrown in the background. — They ought to be planted from the first to the middle of May.

We have a small quantity on hand to give away; and if any of our friends think this cheap enough, we shall be happy to supply all with a small package, sufficient to provide seed for another year. We are sure no lover of a good bean, who eats the *frejole* (pronounced *freholy*) once, but will be desirous to have another "dig" at them. They are a bunch bean, and are grown with the least possible trouble. — *Germantown Telegraph.*

Mr. Isaiah Crosby, of Shrewsbury, has a cow, from which has been made, in nine months, 212 pounds of butter, besides selling 245 quarts of new milk. The money produce of the cow was as follows: —

212 pounds butter sold at 22 cents,	$46 64
245 quarts of milk, at 4 cents,	9 80
Skim milk sold,	1 02
Calf fatted and sold,	8 00
Total,	$65 46

Besides this, a pig of 300 pounds weight was reared and partiallv fatted on the skim milk. — *American Republic.*

Housing Manure. — It is miserable economy to throw manure out into the open air, and leave it exposed to all the variations of the weather till it is wanted for use. Some build sheds over their hovel windows, to protect their manure heaps. This is a good improvement, but a manure cellar is better.

There has been a great and sudden rise of water on Sandy River, causing much damage to farmers on the intervals. A large quantity of hay left in the fields was swept away. — *Maine Cultivator.*

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

The Literary Readers, for Academies and High Schools; consisting of Selections in Prose and Verse, from American, English, and other foreign Literature, chronologically arranged; including Biographical Sketches, and Remarks on the Art of Reading. By Miss A. Hall, Author of the "Manual of Morals." Boston, published by John P. Jewett & Co., Nos. 17 and 19 Cornhill.

In this work we have a choice compilation from the wide field of literature, admirably adapted to the school, to the family, and the general reader. The talented author, whose former work has high merit, has evinced great labor, good taste, and nice discrimination, in the preparation of this valuable book. Besides its high merit in other respects, it has a new and important feature, which should give it a decided preference. Preceding the articles of each author is a short and comprehensive sketch of his life: this not only adds great interest to the work, but it communicates important facts in the history of literature, that are easily learned and remembered. We would commend this as the best work of the kind that has come within our observation; and we are pleased to see fair authors coming before the public with superior claims.

The Farmer's Guide. — This valuable work has reached the seventh number. The sixth number was embellished with a beautiful engraving of Short Horn cows; the seventh is finely adorned with a Leicester ewe and lamb. The English author, Stephens, ranks among the ablest of his countrymen; and the American author, Prof. Norton, is well known for his valuable contributions to agriculture. Messrs. Fetridge & Co., agents, Boston.

Mr. Livingston's Strong Arguments against Capital Punishment reviewed. Messrs. Redding & Co., Boston. Price 10 cents.

Theatrical Reminiscences. — A Peep behind the Curtain. Messrs. Redding & Co. Price 25 cents.

Boston Female Medical School. — A few pages reviewed, in regard to this institution, show that it is gaining favor in the public mind, as needs it must, as the subject becomes investigated. The object is to educate intelligent women for the important office of physicians. In numerous cases, they are best fitted by nature and their habits to have the management of the sick.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Of John Washburn, Plymouth, Manomet Sweeting apple. This is a new fruit, of great beauty and excellent quality. It promises to be one of the best varieties. It ripens a little later than the Sweet Bough. Also, Sassafras Sweet. This is a large, fair fruit, very tender, and of a fine high flavor, excellent both for baking and for the dessert. Though it is early for this fruit, the specimens of Mr. W.

were fine. It is usually in use from September into November, and is one of the finest sweet apples of its season. It is a good grower and bearer.

Of Dea. S. P. Fowler, Danvers New Mills, a few quarts of Black Grape currants. This is a valuable fruit for medical purposes. We have been indebted to Dea. F. for some bottles of wine or cordial made from this currant, which we used to good advantage in a case of general debility. With proper attention, we can raise materials, and make better medicine than the apothecary shops afford, and thus avoid the danger from adulterated drugs and mineral poisons, to say nothing of the danger of taking doses often dealt out by those who are ignorant of the science of the trade they practise.

Of Samuel Walker, Chelsea, fine specimens of the Peach plum. This is a large fruit, and one of the finest in its season.

Of Henry Vandyne, nurseryman, Cambridgeport, a box of Prince's Yellow Gage plum. This ripens a little later than the Peach plum, and is one of the best early varieties.

Trust him little who praises all — and him less who censures all — and him still less who is indifferent about all.

For the New England Farmer.

Mr. Cole: I received by mail, a few days since, the enclosed manuscript, from a gentleman residing in Connecticut, who, in his last letter to me, says,—

"The enclosed hit at the fever is from a literary friend here, who loves a joke as well as poultry. It is forwarded at my suggestion, and I think all your poultry readers will enjoy it, if it suits your convenience to publish it."

I think it well suited to these times, and therefore send it to you for publication, hoping that your readers will be well pleased with it, and that the author will oftentimes favor them with the productions of *his* or *her* muse. Yours, &c.,

S. BRADFORD MORSE, Jr.

Remarks. — With great pleasure, we present our readers with the poetry in question, for we regard it as admirably adapted to the occasion. We need some Cervantes to portray truly the Quixotism in the poultry line, particularly at the present time, when, after a season noted for much loud crowing, there are in various parts of the big poultry yard some symptoms that *spurs* and *game bills* are coming into requisition. We would invite further effusions from the same source. — Ed.

THE HEN FEVER.

Æsop, who wrote in days of yore,
Tells of a wondrous goose,
That for its master every day
Would golden eggs produce.

But poulterers of the present day
Would such a fowl despise;
A Dorking or a Shanghae hen
They'd far more highly prize.

The modern poulterers include
The righteous and the bad,
The rich, the poor, the old, the young;
All have gone "poultry mad."

Lawyers, and doctors, and divines,
All practice have resigned,
And to improve the breed of hens
Their talents have combined.

And, after "laying" various plans,
They've "set" themselves at work
To find if in the poultry tribe
New qualities may lurk.

The praise of hens of various breeds
From every tongue is heard,
While all admit the crested cock
To be a "*gallus* bird."

A *hen*-pecked husband now is thought
Alone to know true bliss,
And if a *chicken* heart he owns,
It will not come amiss.

The *cock*-ney now is thought to be
With keenest wit adorned,
And 'tis a "feather in his cap,"
If, like the hens, he's *corn*ed.

Fowl-ers' are now the only works
Young ladies deign to read,
And *chick*-weed, *egg*-plant, *eg*-lantine,
The only flowers they'll heed.

Their suitors now are only asked
How many hens they own,
For by the care on these bestowed,
True love is only shown.

Vain *eg*-otists are they who think
Good looks or wit will make
Amends for empty poultry yards;
Eg-regious mistake.

Hen-ry and *Hen*-rietta now
Are lovely names indeed,
And those who bear these honored names
No other graces need.

"'Tis strange, 'tis passing strange;" the world
Is ever running wild;
Some foolish scheme will captive lead
Alike the sage and child.

HEN-RY.

Stonington, Ct., *July* 10, 1850.

Beware of little expenses; — a small leak will sink a great ship.

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume, if left at this office. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

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